



**CONTACT:**

Leon Rubin  
Office Depot Foundation  
706-867-0278 (office)  
561-251-8075 (mobile)  
[lrubin@jkggroup.com](mailto:lrubin@jkggroup.com)

**Note to media:** The backpacks are not available to the general public. They are being donated only to designated recipients selected by the Office Depot Foundation.

**OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION DONATES 350,000 COOL NEW SACKPACKS  
IN 2011 TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL**

*National Backpack Program on Track to Serve More Than 2.5 Million Kids Since 2001*

**BOCA RATON, Fla.** – If you put together all 2.5 million kids that the [Office Depot Foundation](#) has reached through its National Backpack Program since 2001, they would fill up about 50,000 school buses! That’s a lot of kids – and a lot of success stories.

In 2011, the Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot® (NYSE:ODP) – will donate 350,000 cool new backpacks in five colorful designs to deserving children served by non-profit organizations and schools in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and internationally. Each backpack comes with a zippered pouch containing essential school supplies, including a pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser, 6” ruler and four crayons.

The newly designed backpacks, which were specially created for the Foundation, reflect and respond to changes in the ways that children are taking their materials to school.

“In keeping with our mission – Listen Learn Care – we’ve created these fun and exciting backpacks in response to what kids have told us they like,” says Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are thrilled to donate these very cool backpacks to more children in a single year than ever before.

“Every year, we have seen our donations bring hope to children whose families might not be able to afford to buy school supplies,” Wong continues. “Parents and teachers alike tell us that we truly are helping children to build self-confidence, boost self-esteem and achieve greater success in the classroom – all as a result of being properly prepared for school.”

The award-winning National Backpack Program is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year. To provide backpacks to children this year, the Foundation is hosting 25 “Back-to-School Celebrations” in cities across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico – five of which will include Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot/Mobil 1 Chevrolet in the NASCAR® Sprint Cup Series™. Thousands of backpacks also are being donated through Office Depot stores in hundreds of local communities and in collaboration with Office Depot’s Business Solutions Division in select cities.



Thousands more are being given to kids through the Office Depot Foundation's partnerships with the Tony Stewart Foundation, the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Feed The Children, the Kids In Need Foundation, Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon Foundation, the National Foundation for Women Legislators and a new partner, Samaritan's Feet International, which will distribute sackpacs both nationally and overseas. For the fourth consecutive year, donations will be made to children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

More information about the National Backpack Program can be found on the Office Depot Foundation's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation). For information on the Office Depot Foundation and its initiatives, go to [www.officedepotfoundation.org/](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org/). You can also follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn](http://www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn).

### **About the Office Depot Foundation**

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation (tax exempt under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3)) that serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care<sup>®</sup>, the Foundation supports a variety of programs that help children succeed in school and in life; enable civil society (non-profit) organizations to become more efficient and effective; help people and businesses prepare for disasters, then recover and rebuild afterwards; strengthen local communities through grants, product donations and volunteerism; and encourage community development through entrepreneurship and economic innovation. For more information, visit [www.officedepotfoundation.org](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org).

